

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 PRS-01 /064 W

-----113757 061437Z /43

R 061250Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5498

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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BRUSSELS AND ROME FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR ET

SUBJECT: FAA AGREEMENT WITH ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FAA INTENDS NOT REPEAT NOT TO RENEW MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH VARIOUS AIRLINES, INCLUDING ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES. RATIONALE NOT CLEAR, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF PROBABLE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PRESENT US ORIENTATION OF MANY SMALLER AIRLINES AND OVERSEAS SALES OF US AVIATION EQUIPMENT.

2. EAL PARTICULARLY WOULD BE AFFECTED BY SUCH ACTION IN VIEW OF ITS PLANS TO ESTABLISH UNDER THE AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION (ACAC) A LARGE FACILITY IN ADDIS ABABA TO TRAIN PILOTS AND TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL FROM VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES. THE EAL PROGRAM ENVISAGES SOME 400 STUDENTS AT ANY ONE TIME, AND US EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES, AS WELL AS US REGULATIONS, ARE TO BE A PRIMARY FEATURE OF THE SHCOOL. TRAINED ON US EQUIPMENT, USING US TECHNIQUES, THESE STUDENTS UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD CHAMPION THE CONTINUED USE OF US AVIATION

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EQUIPMENT THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS. HOWEVER, A COMPLETE CUTOFF OF FAA ASSISTANCE WOULD REQUIRE EAL TO RECONSIDER ITS TRAINING PROGRAM, AND MIGHT FORCE IT TO SEEK TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH OTHER NON-US ORGANIZATIONS. IF SO, SUCH COOPERATION WOULD FAVOR US COMPETITORS IN THE AVIATION FIELD, POSSIBLY FRANCE, THE UK, OR EVEN THE USSR (WHICH NO DOUBT WOULD BE PLEASED TO STEP INTO THE VOID).

3. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CONTEMPLATED FAA ACTION ALSO MIGHT WELL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE POLITICAL IMPACT IN ETHIOPIA, WHERE IT COULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE EPMG AS A SIGN OF US DISINTEREST. INVOLVING EAL, THE PRIDE AND JOY OF ETHIOPIA, SUCH AN EPMG REACTION COULD HAVE UNEXPECTED EMOTIONAL OVERTURES.

4. EAL IS WELL RUN AND IS ONE OF THE FEW MONEY MAKING ORGANIZATIONS IN ETHIOPIA. IT WOULD VERY LIKELY BE WILLING TO PAY FOR CONTINUED FAA ASSISTANCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT INVESTIGATION OF REPORT THAT THE FAA'S MOA WITH ETHIOPIA MAY SOON BE TERMINATED. IF SUCH ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT DEPT SEEK TO HAVE DECISION REVIEWED ON BASIS OF FOREGOING COMMENTS. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN VIEWS OF DOD, DOC AND THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR OF THE AVIATION INDUSTRY REGARDING SUCH ACTION WORLDWIDE.
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Message Attributes

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